Government propose to consider the proposal of laying the said pipe line?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The question of a Southern Gas Grid is being examined by an Inter-Ministerial Group.

Vayudoot Service from Dhanbad and Jamshedpur to Patna

3521. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot services are operating from Dhanbad and Jamshedpur to Patna;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce these services in the light of importance of these cities and inadequate existing transport links?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Due to commercial and operational reasons, Vayudoot Limited has been forced to reduce its network drastically in various States of the country. It does not propose to extend its services at the present juncture.

Power Requirement in Assam

3522. SHRI NURUL ISLAM: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total requirement and generation of power in Assam and the power share of Assam from the Central pool and other sources; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to meet the shortage in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) During the period April, 1991— July, 1991, the energy requirement in Assam was 699 million units against which the availability from Assam's own generation, share from Central Stations and assistance from neighbouring System/States was 649.5 million units, which represents a shortage of 49.5 million units (7.1%).

(b) In order to improve the availability of power in the State, the following projects are under execution by the Assam State Electricity Board:

Name of the project	Type	Capacity(MW)
(i) Lower Borpani	Hydel	2x50
(ii) Dhansiri	Hydel	15x1.33
(iii) Lakwa Gas Turbine	Thermal	4x15
(iv) Lakwa Waste Heat	Thermal	1x22

Various other measures being taken to improve the availability of power include expediting commissioning of new generating capacity, improving the performance of existing power stations, reduction of T & D losses, implementation of demand management and energy conservation measures and arranging transfer of energy from surplus to deficit areas.

Direct Train Service from Tripura to Guwahati

3523. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a direct Express-cum-passenger train from Tripura (Kumarghat) to Guwahati (Assam) to meet the long standing demand of passengers of that area; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Introduction of any additional train across the Lumding-Badarpur section is not presently feasible due to operational and resource constraints.